Attorney Docket No. 3449-0184P Amendment filed August 6, 2003

Page 5

Application No.: 10/002,157

Art Unit 3753

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A valve plate structure comprising:

[[an]] open/shut means for inhaling and discharging fluid through piston movement; and

a valve plate including a suction port coupled with the opening/shutting open/shut means for inhaling fluid through piston movement, a discharge port for discharging fluid through piston movement and a groove section having a plurality of cavities continuous grooves provided to each surround at least a majority of the outside of the suction port or the discharge port.

2. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the open/shut means includes:

a suction valve having a suction plate at a position corresponding to the suction port of the valve plate to intake fluid through piston movement;

a discharge valve having a discharge plate at a position corresponding to the discharging discharge port of the valve plate to discharge fluid; and

a head cover having a suction tube formed at a position corresponding to the suction port of the valve plate and a discharging tube formed at a position corresponding to the discharging discharge port of the valve plate.



Application No.: 10/002,157

Art Unit 3753

Attorney Docket No. 3449-0184P Amendment filed August 6, 2003 Page 6

(Original) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is a coolant.

- 4. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of cavities grooves has a width different from one another.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the cavities grooves are in a shape of circles or polygons such as rectangle and octagon.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the width of the cavities grooves increases [[as]] extending away from the center of the suction port or the discharging discharge port of the valve plate.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the cavities grooves are fixed in depth.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein each of the cavities surrounding the suction port or the discharging port of the valve plate grooves has a different shape from one another.



Attorney Docket No. 3449-0184P Amendment filed August 6, 2003

Page 7

Application No.: 10/002,157

Art Unit 3753

- 9. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the cavities grooves are U-shaped to slowly decrease in width [[as]] extending downward.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the cavities grooves are U-shaped to slowly decrease in width [[as]] extending downward.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein opening or closing functions of the open/shut means [[is]] are operated via a pressure difference.
- 12. (Currently Amended) A valve plate structure comprising:

[[an]] open/shut means for inhaling or discharging fluid through piston movement; and

a valve plate including a suction port coupled to the open/shut means for inducing inhaling fluid through piston movement, a discharge port for discharging fluid through piston movement, and a groove spirally provided to surround the outside of the suction port or the discharge port.



Attorney Docket No. 3449-0184P Amendment filed August 6, 2003

Page 8

Application No.: 10/002,157 Art Unit 3753

Of 13. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 12, wherein the groove contacts with the suction port or the discharge port at one end thereof and has a spiral shape that increase in width [[as]] extending outward.

(Currently Amended) A valve plate structure comprising:

a suction valve to intake a low pressure [[of]] coolant through a linear back-and-forth reciprocating movement of a piston, and opening and shutting operation in response to the back-and-forth reciprocating movement;

a valve plate coupled with the suction valve, and including a suction port for inhaling the low pressure of coolant through the piston movement, a discharging discharge port for discharging a high pressure of coolant through piston movement, and a groove section having a plurality of cavities continuous grooves provided to each surround at least a majority of the outside of the suction port or the discharge port;

a discharging valve coupled with the valve plate for discharging the high pressure coolant through the reciprocating movement of the piston, and the opening and the shutting operation in response to the back-and-forth reciprocating movement; and

a head cover coupled with the discharge discharging valve, and including a suction tube formed at a position corresponding to the suction port of the valve

Application No.: 10/002,157

Art Unit 3753

Attorney Docket No. 3449-0184P Amendment filed August 6, 2003 Page 9

plate and a discharging tube formed at a position corresponding to the discharge port of the valve plate.

15. (Currently Amended) The valve plate structure according to claim 12 14, wherein the suction valve, the valve plate, the discharging valve and the head cover are coupled via a bolt.

16. (New) The valve plate structure according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of continuous grooves completely surround the outside of the suction port or the discharge port.

(New) The valve plate structure according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of continuous grooves completely surround the outside of the suction port or the discharge port.